



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

www.publichealthbytes.org

Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership
with the citizens of
Henrico County to create
the conditions for health.

January
31st, 2007

Volume 3

Issue 1

PANDEMIC ALERT PHASE: 3

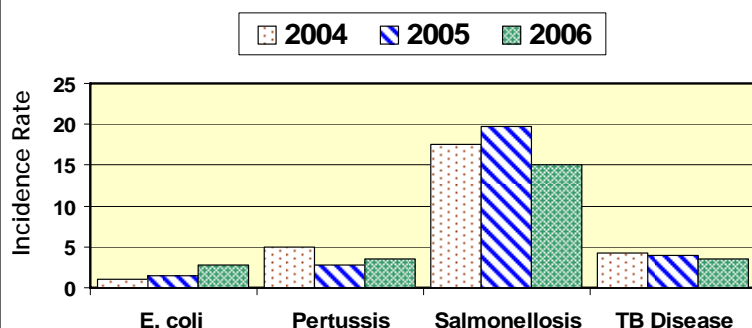
Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases –2007 started with six new H5N1 human cases (five in Indonesia and one in Egypt) of which 5 were fatal. The 2003-2007 cumulative case fatality rate for human H5N1 cases is 60.6% (163 deaths/269 cases). **Animal outbreaks** – Eight countries – China, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam – have reported fresh outbreaks of avian influenza since the start of the year. Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia have reported the highest number of avian influenza (subtype H5N1) outbreaks in poultry from the end of 2003 until 12/25/2007.

Norovirus Outbreaks

Norovirus: Additional norovirus institutional outbreaks have been reported to Richmond area health departments. We recently received questions regarding our criteria for norovirus testing. Henrico Health Department will provide assistance during an outbreak investigation by sending patient specimens for norovirus testing to the state lab. Non outbreak-related, individual diagnostic testing for norovirus is not offered by the health department. Information on the prevention and control of norovirus outbreaks at long term care facilities is available for downloading at: <http://www.HenricoLTCF.org>.

Trends in Disease Incidence

Incidence Rate per 100,000 Population,
Selected Notifiable Diseases in Henrico Co., 2004-2006



Three Year Comparison of Selected Disease Morbidity: A review of the past three years of morbidity data revealed changing trends in incidence (see graph). Between 2004 and 2006, the incidence of TB disease decreased slightly while E. coli incidence increased. The five-year average incidence rate per 100K population was 16.4 for Salmonellosis, 3.7 for TB disease, 3.4 for Pertussis, and 1.6 for E.coli infections. See "Monthly Morbidity Surveillance Reports" on our website for more information on 2006 morbidity data.

Seasonal Influenza Corner

Virginia 2006/2007 Influenza Surveillance

Activity Level: **Regional** (As of 1/23/2007)

CDC influenza surveillance data at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Emergency Preparedness

Local Health Emergency Advisory Group: The Henrico County Health and Medical Emergency Advisory Group met on January 24th. The group advised us to pursue community outreach projects such as a local pandemic flu summit, educational seminars and train-the-trainer programs. There was also consensus on the need to conduct joint table-top exercises and scenario-driven facilitated discussions. Sub-committees were established to examine medical surge and special needs sheltering at the local level. The Henrico County Pandemic Influenza plan remains as a draft document to be finalized by this summer. Members of the Advisory Group have been asked to review and comment on the plan over the next few months.

Henrico Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): Training for 2007 will kick off on February 13th with a focus on First Aid. Later this winter, we are also planning a volunteer appreciation dinner and a presentation on lessons learned from our Nov. 2006 Mass Vaccination Exercise. New volunteers are always welcome! See <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/mrc.htm>

Satellite Broadcast Opportunity

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable

Diseases 2007: Henrico Health Department's West office will offer the four CDC satellite course sessions on 1/25/07, 2/1/07, 2/8/07, and 2/15/07. Call us at 501-4522 for details. You can register for continuing education and/or certificate of completion for each session online: <http://www2.cdc.gov/phtn/>

Prepared by Henrico Health District:

Mark J. Levine, MD, MPH
District Health Director

J. Rebecca Early, MPH
District Epidemiologist

Michael K. Magner, MPH

Emergency Planner

Tel: (804) 501-4522 Fax: (804) 501-4232

Emergency Number: 1-866-531-3068

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/LHD/henrico/MyWeb/index.asp>